

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

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COOPERATIVE EFFORT PRESERVES HISTORIC TUTTLE FARM IN DOVER

STATE INVESTMENT OF \$1.34 MILLION PART OF CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

“America’s oldest family farm” will remain as open space forever, thanks to a joint effort that included the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), the City of Dover and the Strafford Rivers Conservancy (SRC). An easement agreement signed this week marked the final phase of preserving the entire 120-acre property of the Tuttle Farm on Dover Point Road in Dover.

A combination of funding to secure the nearly \$2.79 million conservation easement was provided by the NHDOT (\$1.34 million), the City of Dover (\$1.295 million) and the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (\$155,000). The NHDOT’s involvement and investment was to preserve land as mitigation to offset impacts to wetlands for the planned Newington-Dover Little Bay Bridge/Turnpike Improvement project and three other transportation projects in the area.

“This is a win-win for everyone involved,” says NHDOT Newington-Dover Project Manager Chris Waszczuk. “Not only is the Tuttle Farm a historic working farm that’s a valued resource by the community, it also has prime agricultural soils and great tidal and non-tidal wetlands between the Bellamy and Piscataqua Rivers. This preservation will allow the farm and Red Barn Store to continue to operate as they do today for future generations to enjoy.”

“It was such a huge collaborative effort and everyone was totally on board,” says SRC Executive Director Anna Boudreau. “Without being able to leverage the state and local funding this would have been very difficult to do. With all of the development pressures that exist today, to be able to see this farm as you drive down Dover Point Road, you cannot put a value on that.”

Tuttle Farm was established in 1632 by John Tuttle and 11 generations later is still operated as a family farm by William Penn Tuttle III. The City of Dover had designated the farm as its highest priority for preservation.

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